REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 6 are amended, claims 4 and 5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 10-16 are added. No new matter is added by these amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masegi et al. (US 5,369,574). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being suggested by Masegi. Applicant respectfully submits the claims are patentable over Masegi because all of the claim elements are not taught or suggested by Masegi.

Claim 1 recites: "the negative list describes information in the external format that is irrelevant to the statistical model." Claim 10 recites: "the negative list describes information in the external format that is damaging to the statistical model."

In contrast to the negative list of claims 1 and 10, Masegi describes a "limitation," which "means restricting the direction of selection performed during the process of generating a sentence." *Masegi at column 9, lines 15-17.* Masegi gives examples of "limitations" as "sentence type" and "sentence style," which indicate an "explanatory sentence" or a "polite sentence." *Masegi at column 9, lines 25-27.* Masegi further explains that "[i]n the process of generating a sentence, the sentence is not changed to an interrogative sentence or imperative sentence if it is explanatory." *Masegi at column 9, lines 27-30.*

Thus, the Masegi limitations are relevant and beneficial to the process of generating sentences because they are used to determine, for example, whether a sentence is changed to an interrogative sentence or an imperative sentence. In contrast, the information in the negative list of applicant's claim 1 is "irrelevant to the statistical model" and the negative list of applicant's claim 10 is "dangerous to the statistical model."

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Further, the negative lists of claims 1 and 10 are used in "building a statistical model" while the Masegi limitations are used in the "process of generating a sentence." *Masegi at column 9, lines 27-28.* Thus, the relevant and beneficial Masegi limitations used to generate a sentence do not teach or suggest the irrelevant and dangerous negative lists used in building a statistical model, as recited in applicant's claims 1 and 10, respectively.

Claims 2-3, 6-9, and 11-16 are dependent on claims 1 and 10, respectively, and are patentable over Masegi for the reasons argued above, plus the elements in the claims.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (651-645-7135) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,
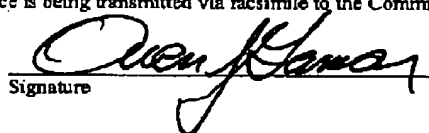
Thomas Stuermer et al.

By their Representative,

Date: April 29, 2004

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents 703-872-9306, on this 29th day of April, 2004.

Owen J. Gamon
Name

Signature